

SELECTMEN'S WORKSHOP  
June 18, 2012  
McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall  
Spencer, Massachusetts 01562

Selectmen Present: Chairman Pepe, Vice Chair Woodbury, Clerk Stevens, Members Fritze and Berthiaume

Staff Present: Administrative Assistant Torti, Town Counsel Weinberg

Chairman Pepe called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Pepe then announced that the agenda would be taken out of order and that the Board would hold their executive session first and reconvened in open session to continue with the remainder of the meeting.

***A motion to enter into Executive Session under Mass General Laws, Chapter 39 § 23B ¶ 1 for the purposes of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal or, or complaints or charges against a public officer, employee, staff member or individual (Berthiaume/Woodbury) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume-yes, Stevens-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes, Fritze-yes.***

The executive session ended at 6:28 p.m. and Chairman Pepe reconvened the meeting in open session.

Public Hearing for Proposed Cable Franchise Agreement:

Mr. Pepe opened the Public Hearing for the Proposed Cable Franchise Agreement with Charter Communications at 6:30 p.m. (a copy of the sign in sheet is attached as part of this record). Attorney Tom Cohan was present to represent Charter Communications. Representing the Town were the members of the Cable Advisory Committee and the Spencer Cable Access Board: Aaron Keyes, Mary Braney, Nancy Herholz, Dr. Reza Namin, Pat George, Michael Toomey and Attorney Bill Hewig.

Mr. Keyes presented the draft licensing agreement that the Cable Advisory Committee is negotiating with Charter Communications for review by the Board and summarized its contents for the public. Mr. Keyes commented on the increased use of the Cable Access Studio, noting the participation of the school with "Prouty Productions". Mr. Stevens inquired about the increased costs associated with expanded hours. Mr. Tom Cohen addressed this question by explaining the new funding structure. Mr. George noted that there are other options being discussed included a fiber optic network which he said could be best addressed by the Town Administrator. Mary Braney noted that the cable studio is run entirely with volunteers and that the volunteer help needed to be leveraged, particularly in the area of expenses incurred by volunteers. Additionally, there is a need to improve the lighting in the studio. Every effort has been made and continues to be made to maximize each dollar spent. Mr. Berthiaume agreed declaring that it was inevitable that there will be a need for the expansion of staff. Michael Toomey reiterated the Board's

careful use of funds and noted that while they would like to continue with volunteers they were at a point where there is a need for technical editing assistance. Dr. Namin spoke about the school's involvement with the cable studio and Mr. Pepe indicated his support of such creative curriculum. Mr. Pepe noted that the final contract would be presented at the July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

As there were no further questions from the Board or the Public, Mr. Pepe closed the public hearing at 6:57 p.m.

Agriculture Friendly Legislation:

Mr. Berthiaume clarified an incident that had been reported at the previous Board meeting in which the Police responded to a complaint about agricultural work being conducted on a Sunday and to which the Police acted in support of the farmer, upholding the law which exempts agricultural work from the holiday work restrictions. Richard Lapierre of Woodside Road noted that farmers need to farm when the weather is good and have the "right to farm." He also noted that the State requires disclosure to all purchasers of property that abuts working farms. This protects both the buyer and the farmer. Mr. Pepe commented that the Town has an unspoken commitment to support local farmers and the Board agreed to look into the formation of an Agricultural Commission and requested copies of a bylaw for a possible warrant article, which could be presented to the Town Administrator.

Revote: MOU for shared IT position, regionalized with Auburn and Leicester: Mr. Stevens noted that these agreements are different than large regional agreements in which the individual parties lose control.

***A motion to approve the MOU for the shared IT position to be regionalized with Auburn and Leicester (Berthiaume/Fritze) passed 5/0.***

Discussion: Sex Offender Residency (proposed bylaw and map review)

The Board reviewed a large map depicting areas of vulnerability with 500 foot buffers. The Board asked if the map could be reduced to 11x17 copies and sent to them for review before the next workshop. Mr. Pepe noted that other areas of public recreation should also be considered.

Celebration Committee:

Committee Chair Wendy Berthiaume spoke about the upcoming Family Fun and asked the public for donations toward the cost of the Fireworks. Mrs. Berthiaume explained that the event is open to the public and free of charge in an effort to make wholesome family activities available to all residents. She also expressed her appreciation to the Agricultural Association for their help and support. Mr. Stevens noted that his mother in law, Spencer's oldest citizen will be giving the countdown for the fireworks.

*A motion to adjourn (Woodbury/Berthiaume) passed 5/0 and the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted

Laura J. Torti  
Administrative Assistant  
Town Administrator/Board of Selectmen

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_ Vice Chair

\_\_\_\_\_ Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ Member

\_\_\_\_\_ Member

Board of Selectmen